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SITUATION REPORTS

POLAND

An unusually high level of Warsaw Pact military activity is taking shape in and around Poland, involving Soviet, East German, Polish, and possibly Czech forces. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] reports suggest that these forces are collaborating in an air and air defense exercise. There has been no public announcement of such an exercise by Warsaw Pact authorities. The exercise probably will be directed by the Soviet General Staff. [REDACTED]

The activity observed over the past several days is unprecedented for this time of year. The developments could involve further preparations leading to military intervention in Poland or, at a minimum, serve as an intimidating signal to the Polish population. [REDACTED]

Recent Developments

--The chief of Soviet forces in East Germany has imposed travel restrictions from 29 November to 9 December covering the largest overall areas ever closed to US, UK, and French military observers. The restricted areas encompass a large part of East Germany along the border with Poland. US defense attaches in Moscow recently had a visit canceled to areas along the Polish-USSR border for "reasons of a temporary nature." [REDACTED]

--A tactical air standdown [REDACTED] by Soviet forces in Poland, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia since Friday. Polish and East German air forces also have been inactive. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] East German
air defense personnel were informed last Thursday
that leaves were to be restricted pending a "big
action." [REDACTED]

--The East German party apparently has ordered
Air Force commanders to brief party members who
are in the military concerning an "important"
Politburo resolution. We do not know the con-
tent of the resolution, but it presumably has
to do with the current situation in Poland.
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Army in the Baltic Military District is engaged in an exercise. One of the two divisions observed last week to be mobilizing reservists and civilian trucks is from this army. [REDACTED]

Soviet Commentary

Soviet commentaries published over the weekend confirm that Moscow intends to maintain a higher level of political pressure on the Poles to put their house in order. The commentaries blast Polish dissidents, the West, and the Chinese for working against "a normalization of the situation." One commentary also makes ominous allusions to the Czechoslovak crisis in 1968. [REDACTED]

Central Committee Meeting

Party leader Kania hopes to use the Central Committee meeting, which convenes today, to rally support for his leadership and to give the party a new sense of purpose. [REDACTED]

Kania's prospects for success are at best questionable. The party's newspaper admitted on Saturday that many members expect to return to their "former style of work." The party at all levels is demoralized by its inability to control events and by the lack of direction from the top. [REDACTED]

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